

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

School Committee Meeting

East Providence City Hall

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

July 7, 2008

Open Session

Mrs. Morris, Chair, called the meeting to Order at 6:00PM. School Committee members present: Anthony Carcieri, Stephen DeCastro, Robert Faria, Steven Santos, Mildred Morris. Also present: Dr. Jacqueline B. Forbes, Superintendent of Schools, Robert Silva, Esq. and Andrew Thomas, Esq. A motion was made by Mr. DeCastro to move to Executive Session in accordance with RI General Laws, Section 42-46-5(a) (1) Personnel, (a) (2) Collective Bargaining/Litigation, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Faria to return to public session at 7:15PM and to seal the minutes of the executive session, seconded by Mr. Carcieri. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence were observed in memory of a student, Tiffany Martinez.

Report of the Superintendent & Staff

Dr. Forbes read a letter notifying the School Committee of her intention to retire from the East Providence School Department effective August 4, 2008. She thanked the School Committee for the opportunities given to her over the past eight years as Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Director of Elementary Education. She stated that she is proud of the accomplishments of students, families and dedicated staff, whose combined efforts have provided students with an excellent education. Mrs. Morris thanked Dr. Forbes for doing a great job and moving the schools forward under her leadership.

Personnel Recommendations – Mr. Barham, Director of Human Resources, presented the personnel items as follows:

APPOINTMENTS

Kelly Fontaine Health Teacher, EPHS

One year only

Daniel Cabral Elementary Phys Ed – Spec Subjects

Holly DaSilveira Reading, MMS

One year only

Motion: Mr. DeCastro to approve appointments (with the exception of Grade 1 at Orlo and a Special Education Resource position at Orlo/Second: Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0. Mr. DeCastro asked if all

appointees had signed anti-nepotism statements.

RETIREMENTS

Jacqueline B. Forbes, Ph.D. Superintendent of Schools

Kathleen Campopiano (20 yrs) Guidance Counselor, MMS

Raymond C. Lombardo, Jr. (31) Assistant Principal, EPHS

Effective December 30, 2009

Claudia Rowley (19 yrs) Reading Teacher, MMS

Motion: Mr. Faria/Second: Mr. Carcieri. Vote 5-0.

RESIGNATIONS

Joan Wollin Elementary Librarian

Effective immediately

Gerald Dias Technology Coordinator, CTC

Motion: Mr. Faria/Second: Mr. Carcieri. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Barham provided a policy which outlines the current process for hiring, which is followed by the principals.

Unfinished Business

Child Abuse & Neglect – Amended Policy – Dr. Forbes recommended

that the School Committee approve second passage of the policy which has been reviewed by the new Director of Pupil Personnel, Mrs. Garrison. A motion was made by Mr. Faria to approve, seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0. Dr. Forbes thanked the members of the Special Education Advisory Committee for their assistance in drafting updates to the policy.

Early Admission to Kindergarten Amended Policy – Dr. Forbes recommended that the School Committee approve second passage of the policy (placement subject to space availability). Motion to approve by Mr. Faria, seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0.

New Business

Residency Policy - Mr. DeCastro asked to place this item on the agenda to request that all residents of East Providence be granted an interview when applying for a position. He would like the Superintendent to draft a policy. Mr. Barham explained the criteria for hiring. Mrs. Morris questioned how the screening committee is selected. Mr. Barham referred the School Committee to Policy III. J. 3a. Interview Process and Procedures for Selection of Staff Below the Level of Principal. Discussion took place regarding the interview process, Affirmative Action Policy; how applications are reviewed, screened, and how applicants are selected for interviews. Mr. DeCastro asked the Superintendent to prepare a residency policy; he believed that taxpayers/residents deserve an interview. Mr. Carcieri

thought the focus should be on excellence rather than residence; children should be first and the city needs to get the best administrators and teachers possible. He believes the process is selective enough; interviewing candidates with less than stellar records is wasting resources, especially now. Mr. Santos asked if members are taken from a pool for screening committees. Mr. Barham stated that he calls the principals, follows the affirmative action policy and rarely uses the same screening committee more than once. (Put this issue on the agenda for September). A motion was made by Mr. DeCastro to request that the Superintendent and Human Resources Director draft a policy. No second. Motion failed.

Payment of Bills

Local Operating Bill List:

Warrant #000837 6/27/08 \$ 645,008.55

Motion: Mr. Carcieri/Second: Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.

Warrant #000838 6/27/08 \$1,508,723.91

Motion: Mr. Carcieri/Second: Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.

Federal Bill List:

Warrant #000836 6/26/08 \$ 545,826.40

Motion: Mr. Carcieri/Second: Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.

The following candidates were interviewed for the position of Interim Superintendent:

Dr. Mario Cirillo, Jr.

Mr. John DeGoes

Mr. Manuel Vinhateiro

A motion was made by Mr. Carcieri to move to Executive Session in accordance with RI General Laws, Section 42-46-5(a) (1) Personnel, (a) (2) Collective Bargaining/Litigation, seconded by Mr. Santos.

A motion was made by Mr. Faria to return to public session at 9:30PM and to seal the minutes of the Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Carcieri. Vote 5-0.

Appointment of Interim Superintendent - Mr. Carcieri made a motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Mario Cirillo, Jr. as Interim Superintendent, seconded by Mr. Faria. Discussion: Mr. DeCastro could not support this appointment because Dr. Cirillo will be an applicant for the permanent position and he also had concerns about his employment record. Mrs. Morris said she could not support for the same reasons. Roll call vote: Mr. Carcieri, aye; Mr. DeCastro, nay; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mrs. Morris, nay. Vote 3-2 to approve.

A motion was made by Mr. DeCastro to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Steven Santos, Clerk of the Committee